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SUBJECT: BURUNDI'S PARLIAMENT NAMES NEW SECOND VICE
PRESIDENT

REF: BUJUMBURA 81

¶1. The Burundian parliament named Gabriel Ntisezerana as the Second Vice President on February 9. Immediately prior to his designation, Ntisezerana was the governor of the Central Bank of Burundi. In a statement given after his appointment, Ntisezerana declared that "priorities will be a fight against poverty and corruption". Ntiserezana, a university laureate originally from the Bubanza province, was a former manager with Interbank Burundi.

¶2. President Nkurunziza dismissed the former Second Vice President, Marina Barampama, on February 8 for "insubordination and irresponsibility". Barampama was a staunch ally of the former CNDD-FDD party president, Hussein Radjabu. Her dismissal came after she attempted to rally a boycott of the CNDD-FDD party Congress on February 7 in Ngozi, which replaced Radjabu, by simultaneously calling a meeting in Bujumbura of officials who report to her. (reftel)

¶3. The political and business community in Bujumbura hailed the appointment of Ntisezerana as a positive and welcome step toward economic progress and political stability. A replacement governor of the Central Bank will be named in the near future.
MOLLER